

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
JANICE K. BREWER



GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
2010-2011

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010 AT 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR BREWER'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
DIVISION FOR COMMUNITY AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 101
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, 85007
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What does it mean to be a Commissioner?

Words from the Chairperson...



The Governor's Youth Commission offers high school students in Arizona the chance to be a part of a unique, life changing experience. No other organization in the state offers the same opportunities. As a commissioner, I have had the opportunity to have a voice in state government, reach out to my community, and connect with other organizations that make a great difference in our lives.

In 2009, the Governor's Youth Commission published the report, *"Addressing the Issues of Today's Youth"*. For the report, each commissioner had the experience of writing a policy recommendation that addressed their particular interest to be shared with the Governor and state and local policy makers. Personally, I wrote recommendations about helping homeless youth in Arizona. Not only was I able to report on significant issues that affected my peers, but I also had the experience of talking with these kids first hand. This year, commissioners have had the opportunity to advocate for the recommendations in the report, actualize some of the recommendations and bring awareness to issues affecting youth.

In addition to working on the recommendation in the report, the Governor's Youth Commission performs service work and community outreach. Over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to volunteer at service organizations that pertained to our policy areas. It was an amazing feeling to know that a couple hours of my time made a great difference in someone's life. Working with a diverse group of commissioners was also a great experience that I will never forget. I have had the ability to become a part of several organizations through networking with other organizations and these commissioners.

Courtney Rothwell

GYC Chairperson

What is the Governor's Youth Commission?

PURPOSE

The Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) advises the Governor and Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families on issues affecting youth in Arizona.

MISSION

The mission of the Governor's Youth Commission is to promote healthier communities through youth volunteerism and service learning, increased awareness of community issues, and civic participation.

MEMBERS , MEETINGS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Governor's Youth Commission is a diverse and representative body of Arizona's high school population, and is composed of 35 members from different parts of the state. Each year, members work together on different projects that impact youth across Arizona.

In July 2008, Commissioners adopted to address four focus areas which they believed were important to improving the lives of Arizona's youth. Four committees were created dedicated to researching the following issues:

- Juvenile Justice & Substance Abuse Prevention
- Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Preventing Domestic Violence
- Improving Education

Quarterly meetings are held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each meeting will feature four different components:

- Researching and developing youth policy recommendations for the Governor, the Governor's Office and the State of Arizona.
- Attending trainings by expert instructors on vital leadership development skills.
- Participating in service projects related to the various challenges Arizona faces.
- Reflecting on past accomplishments and experiences while serving as a Commissioner.

Although the GYC as a whole only meets four times a year, Commissioners are required to work on one of the four policy recommendations throughout the year. Committee meetings are held several times a month through conference calls.

Commissioners are also asked to commit to doing volunteer work, and are encouraged, although not required, to work in agencies that provide services in the issue area they are focusing on. For example, Commissioners who are members of the Committee on Youth Experiencing Homelessness may work at organizations that offer services to homeless youth. The ultimate goal of this project is for the Commissioners to gain real life knowledge of the issue they are working to change.

Finally, the policy recommendations made and/or implemented by each committee will be compiled in an end of the year report that will be distributed to the appropriate policy makers and state agencies. The intent is to provide Arizona's elected officials with solutions to youth issues from youth leaders themselves.

Governor's Youth Commission Issue Area Committees

Committee on Education

The GYC Education Committee is currently working on implementing report recommendations from 2009, which mainly focus on increasing school relevancy and youth involvement in the community. As such, the committee is attempting to integrate more service learning strategies into statewide curriculum, and to establish a special diploma program for students with exemplary community service. The committee would also like to implement a mandatory community service hour requirement for all graduating seniors.

Committee on Juvenile Justice & Substance Abuse Prevention

The GYC Committee on Juvenile Justice & Substance Abuse Prevention (CJJSAP) recognizes the value of youth in society, and believes that shaping the character of a youth is, in essence, shaping the future. With this vision in mind the committee is addressing the extremely significant, but often overlooked, issue of juvenile justice; specifically focusing on mental health issues, substance abuse, and gender-related care in detention. The CJJSAP is a voice for youth effected by the juvenile justice system and hope that in their work they are able to shape a new outlook for juvenile justice - one that fosters their peers in the system and creates a prosperous and opportunity filled tomorrow not just for the youth, but for Arizona.

Committee on Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Recent statistics have shown an alarming rate of homeless youth throughout the state, and that number is only increasing. It is time for our generation to step up and make a difference in the lives of all homeless

youth and adults. As a committee, members are actively working towards the creation of a statewide identification card and for the construction of more homeless shelters specifically for youth.

Committee to Prevent Domestic Violence

The GYC Committee to Prevent Domestic Violence seeks to raise awareness about dating violence and publicize this issue to help victims as well as to bring about awareness to the new state law that provides victims of teen dating violence the same rights as those who experience domestic violence. Considering that 31% of teenagers report that they or a friend have experienced some form of dating violence, committee members feel that this issue is often overlooked by both adults and lawmakers. Consequently, the committee seeks to bring this issue to the forefront, and are working on a public service announcement to get the word out. It is the aim of the committee to minimize dating violence in the state by promoting new laws against abusers, educating the public and teens about the prevalence of dating violence and publicizing the warning signs of abusive relationships. Committee members also volunteer their time to organizations that help the victims of domestic violence.

What are some of the GYC's accomplishments?

In the past, the Governor's Youth Commissioners has:

1. Released a policy report, "*Addressing the Issues of Today's Youth*," on June 17, 2009.
2. Awarded the 2008 Youth Education & Enforcement – Outstanding Enforcement award from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and Mother's Against Drunk Driving.
3. Since 2007, have hosted Youth Leadership Day, an event attended by nearly 250 members representing over 30 different youth organizations each year for a day of civic participation. Youth attended skill development workshops, were informed of leadership opportunities, and had the opportunity to meet with Governor's Cabinet members and agency officials.
4. Facilitated an underage drinking prevention workshop at the 10th Annual National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
5. Administered a \$40,000 Alcohol Retailer Mapping in Proximity to Youth Mini-Grant.
6. Conducted six focus groups which invited parents from across Arizona to discuss issues related to youth and alcohol. The data collected was used in the Underage Drinking in Arizona Data Findings 2007 Report and helped to develop a statewide media campaign.
7. Learned how to make policy recommendations and how to approach youth issues through expert speakers from Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy, the Governor's Division for Children, the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Children's Action Alliance.
8. Was an integral part of the launching of *Draw the Line*, a statewide media campaign directed at changing adult attitudes and behaviors towards underage drinking.

Eligibility

The Governor's Youth Commission is currently accepting applications from high school students who will be sophomores or juniors during the 2010-2011 school year. Please note that the GYC is seeking applicants who represent the diverse and unique nature of Arizona's counties.

Requirements

Being a commissioner requires a high degree of commitment. Before applying, please make sure that you are able to dedicate a sufficient amount of time to the organization.

Commissioners are expected to:

- Attend four meetings a year held in various locations throughout Arizona.
- Contribute to the planning and execution of the GYC's special events and activities.
- Actively participate in committee meetings and conference calls.
- Participate in individual or group service projects.
- Communicate via e-mail, phone, or the GYC's website (members are expected to check their e-mail on a daily basis).
- Provide their own transportation to and from meetings.
- Serve as a role model and adhere to a high code of conduct.
- Serve as a liaison to other youth.

In addition to the above requirements, each Commissioner must also have an adult mentor or advisor who he/she can turn to for help and support when completing projects. Mentors or advisors can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent. During the coming year, there may be opportunities for Commissioners and their mentors to attend an event together.

Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
Governor's Youth Commission
2010-2011

Application Process

The GYC recruitment process consists of an application and interview. All youth who are eligible to apply must follow the application instructions below. Finalists will be invited to interview in May. Decisions are tentatively scheduled to be made in June.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

A complete application consists of:

- Membership Application: Personal Information (Page 6).
- Completed Questionnaire (Page 7).
- Resume detailing current and past community and school involvement (limit to one page).
- Two (2) letters of recommendation. One letter **MUST** be from a teacher, faculty member or youth group leader. The second letter **MUST** be from your mentor, which can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent.

Applications should not be in a binder, report cover or folder. Please use a staple or paper clip to hold your application together.

Complete applications can be mailed, emailed, faxed or delivered in person to:

Amanda Scott-Thomas
Youth Development Program Administrator
Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
State Capitol, Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 101
Phoenix, AZ 85007
ascottthomas@az.gov
Fax: (602) 542-3423 (*please call to confirm that we have received your application*)

Applications MUST be RECEIVED by Friday, April 23, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Please contact Amanda Scott-Thomas at (602) 542-3426, or through e-mail at ascottthomas@az.gov if you require any additional information.



Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
Governor's Youth Commission
2010-2011

Membership Application: Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

Zip: _____ Ethnicity (optional): _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Birthday: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name(s): _____

What grade will you be in during the 2010-2011 school year?: _____

School's Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Principal's Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Adult Advisor/Mentor Information

Name: _____

Position: _____

How is this person related/associated with you? _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
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Questionnaire

Part I

The GYC's first meeting and orientation is tentatively scheduled for **the end of July** in Flagstaff, AZ in conjunction with the Governor's 16th Annual National and Community Service Conference. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**. Please confirm that you will be able to attend the meeting and conference. If you cannot attend, please state the reason(s) why. (Note: school excuses, mileage reimbursement, hotel rooms, and meals are provided for all meetings as needed.)

Part II

Please respond to the following questions. Your answers must be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. Please **DO NOT** include any additional information (newspaper articles, photographs, etc.).

1. What interests you about becoming a GYC member?
2. What can you contribute to the GYC? How will your background or experiences add to our mission?
3. Describe in detail a time during your life when you overcame significant adversity in a team environment (i.e. school work group, in a club, etc.).
4. One of our responsibilities is to advise the Governor on issues that are important to youth in Arizona. If you could choose one youth issue to advise the Governor, what would it be, why and what would you recommend?

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